

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. An apparatus, comprising:

a communication unit which receives email
through a communication line, the email having been sent
by a user and including a first identifier and data;

10 an accumulation unit which stores therein the
data;

a printout unit;

an input unit which receives a second
identifier entered by the user through direct operation
15 thereof; and

a control unit which controls said printout
unit to print the data corresponding to the first
identifier by reading the data from said accumulation
unit if the second identifier matches the first
20 identifier.

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2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said communication unit is connected to the Internet and at least one of a facsimile line and a local area network.

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3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said accumulation unit includes:

10 a private accumulation unit; and
 an output accumulation unit,

 wherein said control unit stores the data of
the email including the first identifier in said private
accumulation unit, and stores data of email failing to
15 include the first identifier in said output accumulation
unit to control said printout unit to print the data
stored in said output accumulation unit immediately
after the storing of the data in said output
accumulation unit.

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4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3,
25 wherein the first identifier is an identifier specifying

a sender, an identifier specifying a destination, or an identifier specifying both the sender and the destination.

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5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3,
wherein said accumulation unit further includes a
10 storage accumulation unit, and said control unit stores
data of email including a storage identifier in said
storage accumulation unit.

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6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 2,
wherein said control unit transmits the data stored in
the accumulation unit through said communication unit in
20 response to the first identifier.

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7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6,

further comprising a format conversion unit which converts a format of the data stored in said accumulation unit.

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8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, constituting part of a facsimile apparatus.

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9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, constituting part of a printer apparatus.

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10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, constituting part of a digital copier that includes at least one of a facsimile function and a printer function.

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11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
constituting part of a computer.

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12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the data stored in the accumulation unit is
deleted when a first predetermined time period passes
10 after the storing of the data in the accumulation unit.

13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 12,
wherein the data stored in the accumulation unit is
deleted when a second predetermined time period passes
after the data is read from the accumulation unit.

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14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 12,
wherein the first predetermined time period and the
second predetermined time period are set flexibly in
25 response to an available memory space of said

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accumulation unit.

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15. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
further comprising a copyright management unit which
prints information about copyright on a printout of the
data if the data has copyright information attached
thereto.

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16. The apparatus as claimed in claim 15,
wherein said copyright management unit makes record of a
royalty fee associated with use of the copyright.

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17. The apparatus as claimed in claim 15,
wherein a print position and print size of said
information about copyright is adjustable.

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18. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
further comprising:

a random number generation unit;

a number record unit which stores therein a
5 random number generated by said random number generation
unit as a password;

a password record unit which is provided as
nonvolatile memory as part of said accumulation unit,
and stores therein the password; and

10 a permission unit which allows access to the
data of said accumulation unit if the password stored in
said number record unit matches the password stored in
said password record unit at a time of power on.

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19. The apparatus as claimed in claim 18,
further comprising an encryption unit which encrypts the
20 password.

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20. The apparatus as claimed in claim 18,

wherein said random number generation unit generates a new random number each time power is turned on, and the new random number is stored in said password record unit as a password.

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21. The apparatus as claimed in claim 18,
10 wherein the password is updated upon passage of a predetermined time period after the password is recorded in the password record unit.

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22. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said communication unit receives by email a transfer identifier including the first identifier and a
20 transfer destination email address, and said control unit reads the data corresponding to the first identifier included in the transfer identifier from the accumulation unit, followed by transferring the read data to the transfer destination email address.

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23. The apparatus as claimed in claim 22,
wherein said control unit generates a transfer
identifier including the second identifier and an email
address of said apparatus if no data stored in said
5 accumulation unit corresponds to the second identifier,
and sends the generated transfer identifier to at least
one other apparatus identical to the claimed apparatus.

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24. The apparatus as claimed in claim 23,
wherein said accumulation unit includes:

15 a private accumulation unit; and
an output accumulation unit,

wherein said control unit stores the data of
the email including the first identifier in said private
accumulation unit, and stores data of email failing to
include the first identifier in said output accumulation
20 unit to control said printout unit to print the data
stored in said output accumulation unit immediately
after the storing of the data in said output
accumulation unit.

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25. The apparatus as claimed in claim 24,
wherein said control unit attaches, to the generated
transfer identifier, an instruction requesting that data
be transferred by email including no first identifier.

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26. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
10 wherein said control unit controls said printout unit
according to instructions of a processing instruction
text, and transfers the data and the processing
instruction text to another apparatus identical to the
claimed apparatus if the email includes the processing
15 instruction text.

20 27. The apparatus as claimed in claim 26,
wherein said processing instruction text includes a
description of one or more addresses of one or more
transfer destination apparatuses.

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28. The apparatus as claimed in claim 26,
wherein said processing instruction text includes a
description of page numbers and a number of printed
copies.

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29. The apparatus as claimed in claim 26,
10 further comprising processing definition unit which
stores therein abbreviated transfer destinations and
corresponding unabbreviated transfer destinations,
wherein said control unit refers to said processing
definition unit if a destination specified in the
15 processing instruction text is described by an
abbreviation, and converts the abbreviation of the
destination into an unabbreviated destination.

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30. The apparatus as claimed in claim 26,
further comprising a relevant transfer destination
record unit which stores therein information regarding
25 positions of transfer destinations and availability of

data transfer; and

an optimum route selection unit which refers
to said relevant transfer destination record unit to
select an optimum route, and changes a description of a
5 transfer destination in the processing instruction text
according to the selected optimum route.

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31. An apparatus, comprising:

a communication unit which receives email
through a communication line, the email having been sent
by a user and including data;

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an accumulation unit which stores therein the
data;

a printout unit;

an input unit which receives a first
identifier entered by the user through direct operation

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thereof; and

a control unit which generates a second
identifier corresponding to the data, and sends the
second identifier to the user by email via the
communication unit, said control unit controlling said
25 printout unit to print the data corresponding to the

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34. The apparatus as claimed in claim 31,
wherein the email received by said communication unit
25 includes a third identifier, and said input unit

receives a fourth identifier entered by the user in addition to the first identifier, said controlling unit controlling said printout unit to print the data corresponding to the second identifier by reading the data from said accumulation unit if the first identifier matches the second identifier and if the third identifier matches the fourth identifier.